

MNC-6137  
03 June 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- May

## I. GENERAL

A. Work on the new building is continuing at a steady pace, but the performance by the architect's and contractor's supervisory personnel remains spotty. Almost constant supervision on site by the RECD engineer or another member of the bureau's project team is required to ensure that matters are carried out properly, and even then there are times when our instructions are ignored or implemented only after being raised several times. The pouring of the roof area required considerable last-ditch efforts by the contractor, architect, and the RECD engineer to minimize potential durability problems stemming from poor reinforcement placement work that had been pointed out to the contractor several weeks earlier. Even if we have only minor repair required in selected roof areas, the fact remains that we again settled for work that was not up to our original specifications in an important structural area of the building. Proper curing of concrete continues to be a problem and patches of plaster on the perimeter wall are already cracking and will require repair. The new RECD engineer's concerns about poor safety practices by the contractor proved justified in late month when a workman was killed when he fell from scaffolding and was impaled on iron bars protruding from a concrete wall. Our early fears that the communist press might exploit the accident proved groundless.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. As the situation in Libya began to stabilize following the mid-April American raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, Nicosia suspended its continuous backstop recording of Tripoli Domestic Service on 16 May. Nevertheless, an extensive backstop arrangement involving Tripoli Domestic Service and Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland remains in place, with the major newscasts of both transmitters being backstopped during London Bureau's hours of primary coverage responsibility.

On the evening of 27 May, the BBC alerted London and Nicosia to the possibility that a coup was underway in the Libyan capital, prompting the bureau to place Tripoli radio on open-speaker watch. This continued until it was clear that the coup rumors were unfounded, and that all Libyan broadcast sources were behaving normally.

2. In Lebanon, the Phalangists' Voice of Lebanon radio instituted round-the-clock broadcasting on 24 April. The bureau sampled its new overnight transmissions for 3 days, and concluded that expanded coverage is not now warranted, as the added news summaries are largely unproductive.

3. A Lebanese Arabic-language FM station calling itself the "Radio of the Future" was also monitored for the first time in May, albeit with poor reception. Its offerings consist chiefly of Western and Arabic pop music, interspersed with advertisements for businesses located in the Christian-held areas of the country. We have no current coverage plans.

4. In anticipation of Gulf Bureau's closure, Soviet Central Asian and Iranian radios were extensively surveyed early in the month. While the results from Tehran Domestic Service were generally good, the reception of USSR regional radios ranged from poor to unheard, due in part to summer propagation conditions.

#### B. Communications

1. The bureau's primary communications circuits were successfully upgraded from 75 baud to 150 baud on 7 May.

2. Bureau received in May a new IBM XT and Headquarters-supplied BACH communications software, which are now being tested.

#### C. Technical

1. Our long wire antenna at Pissouri remote site remains in the hold mode waiting for the last landowner's signature. Recent negotiations with CYTA indicate that if the signature is not received soon, they will proceed with the project based on a eminent domain clause for nonresponsive landowners.

2. Our present landowner has rejected a proposal to use this building as a repeater site (via a roof mounted reflector) for the new bureau microwave link to the embassy. Other alternatives are being investigated.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Deputy Chief [ ] traveled to Frankfurt on a second medevac related to his broken leg 4-11 May; yet a third medevac is anticipated in late June.

STAT

2. Senior Editor [ ] left Cyprus on 16 May for stateside R & R.

STAT

3. Arabic monitor trainees [ ] were promoted to FBN-8 on 16 May.

STAT

STAT

#### B. Visitors

1. [ ] of RECD arrived on 10 May on a 6-week TDY to oversee the construction of the new bureau.

STAT

STAT

[ ]  
Bureau Chief  
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

## Nicosia Bureau Production Report for May 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	238010
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	91500
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	834

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8565.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

## CHINA

Beijing in

Persian to Iran

0

## CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in  
Arabic

14640

(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in  
Arabic

8350

## CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in  
Greek

9670

Nicosia Domestic Service in  
English

0

\*Nicosia Television Service in  
Greek

290

\*Nicosia ALITHIA in  
Greek

180

\*Nicosia Cyprus Bulletin in  
Greek

430

Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in  
English

1100

Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in  
Greek

140

Nicosia I SIMERINI in  
Greek

2130

Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in  
Greek

270

Nicosia KHARAVYI in  
Greek

4790

Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in  
Greek

0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			3910
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
*Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			1440
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	24140		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	980		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		32490	
Cairo MENA in English		3550	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		19010	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	20470		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			2690
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			2020
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			610
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			0
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			2780
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	30960		
*Beirut Domestic Service in English	140		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	23040		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	200		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			160
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			4930
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	5380		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			3440
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			500
*Istanbul GUNES in Turkish			430
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			1620
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			2560
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			2040
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	0		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	6530		